

## WHAT IF?

*by Laurie A. Monroe*

What if you knew you were going to die in exactly twelve months? What if you knew your child was going to die in six months? What if you knew you were going to win at lotto next week? What if you were promised a thousand dollars a week for the rest of your life? What if you decided to quit your job and move to the Amazonian jungle to study the flora and fauna of the rain forest? What if . . . ?

Attorneys use what-ifs to evaluate legal situations. To “win” a case, many possible outcomes must be evaluated and each scenario must be played out as if it were actually going to happen. Playing out each scene as it *could* unfold prepares them to defend or prosecute a case. A similar process can be usefully employed in one’s own life.

For example, someone diagnosed with cancer could use the same process. The what-ifs would be the myriad treatment options, the emotional ups and downs, and the possible treatment outcomes played out on the stage of your mind. Several friends have taken this approach, and one of my dearest friends and colleagues is currently confronting the what-if of cancer. In general, humans live in a world of what-if, and it isn’t easy. In that world the mind projects many dramatic scenes that hold us in thrall to our egos.

But looking beyond being human and remembering that you are a “spiritual being having a human experience” allows you to truly connect to your higher self. That part of you is constant and knows no ending. You do survive physical death, and your physical existence here is a beautiful and meaningful journey of your soul. No matter how great a challenge you face, there is always someone facing one that is greater. Examples abound, in America’s largest cities and around the world.

While writing these thoughts, I’m looking at a collage of pictures from my “other life” years ago in Orlando, Florida. I was in my prime with a great career, exceptional compensation, and many caring friends. The career was a natural, as it always has been for me. The most important part of my life, however, was the friends I cultivated and the connection we shared. That was a transition “time” for me because I was going through a divorce. My friends were there for me, as I was for them, and we always will be there for each other. Our connection never fades.

What if we all realized that every interaction we have makes a difference in the future of our world? Would you take steps to change something in your life that would catalyze a needed change—not just for the world but also for yourself? What if you could BE the spirit that you

are and demonstrate that essence by action in the physical world? Would you take the chance to be “different” in order to make a difference? Are you willing to let go of the what-ifs in your life and live in the flow? Are you willing to release control of your future and live in the moment by intuition? Only you can answer such questions.

### **Response to Member Feedback**

In my recent member update, I spoke of the future and of the possibility of expanding the Nancy Penn Center. After listening to your feedback, we have decided for now to upgrade Nancy Penn by adding more “creature comforts” and accessories to each room. Perhaps there will be a theme for each room. Members will receive an outline of the proposed upgrade with the donation letter and can choose how to participate.

I extend a sincere “thank you” to everyone who has supported my endeavors to expand TMI. I invite each of you to be a part of TMI’s future and to participate in its growth. It is critically important to expand our outreach to everyone who is open to what TMI offers. One way to do this is through sponsoring tuition for a *GATEWAY VOYAGE*® participant. Another avenue could be donating to the general or research fund, a contribution that helps TMI to continue in perpetuity. What if everyone who has benefited from the TMI experience donated a minimum of \$500 per year for five years? That level of annual commitment would insure that TMI would continue to be here for others who are seeking to know that they are much more than their physical bodies. That knowledge sets you on the “freedom route” with a mandate to share your knowledge with those who will follow you. Please start the New Year by gifting your loved ones with an opportunity to embrace a much more joyful, peaceful, and exhilarating way of being.

With gratitude ~ Laurie

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